

**CLASSIFICATION SUPPORT SYSTEM AND  
METHOD FOR FRAGMENTED IP PACKETS**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

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A wire-speed forwarding platform and method for supporting multifield  
classification of a packet fragmented into a plurality of fragments in the wire-speed  
forwarding platform, comprising: receiving a fragment of the fragmented packet at  
the forwarding platform and deriving a key from one or more fields of the received  
10 fragment; and performing multifield classification of the received fragment by  
matching the key to a rule out of a plurality of rules, the rule comprising a plurality  
of fields including at least one field for specifying whether the received fragment's  
fragmentation characteristics are to be applied when performing the multifield  
classification.

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